

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A mold for use in blow molding has a first fixture and a second fixture. The fixtures correspond to typical mold halves or portions. The first fixture includes drive means, typically in the form of pins, while the second mold fixture has drive receiving means, typically in the form of holes, to receive the pins. When the second mold fixture is in registration with the first mold fixture, the pins or other drive means are extended to lock and locate the two fixtures together. Blow molding can then be carried out without the need of the typical blow molding presses.

- 10 A method of blow molding involves the use of a robotic arm to move the relatively lightweight second mold fixture described above beneath a parison head to accept a parison as it is being extruded so the parison is contained within the mold cavity. After extrusion is complete the arm moves the second fixture toward the first fixture so that the fixtures can be located and locked together. A single robot using a single extrusion head can serve
- 15 several mold stations depending upon cycle times.